

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 101401Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4505

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAREUR

DIA (DIA-5) WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS ANKARA 4493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE: WEEKEND STATEMENT

BY TURK LEADRES

REF A) ANKARA 4402, B) FBIS KYRENIA 081843Z

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONMIN GUNES AND PRIMIN ECEVIT STATED

DURING PAST WEEKEND THAT TURKEY STANDS READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH

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GREECE OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF IN AEGEAN, BUT GOT WILL NOT

BACK DOWN ON ITS REIGHTS. OPPOSITION LEADER DEMIREL ALSO EXPRESSED HIS BACKING FOR GOVT ON THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN GUNES, SPEAKING ON TELEVISION EVENING OF JUNE 7, OBSERVED THAT TURKEY IN ITS NOTE OF JUNE 5 (REF A) HAD OFFERED NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE ON CONTINETAL SHELF IN AEGEAN. GUNES CHARACTERIZED GREEK NOTE OF MAY 24 AS "NOT REJECTING NEGOTIATIONS" RATHER THAN ACCEPTING THEM. HE REITERATED THAT, WHILE TURKEY WANTED FRIENDSHIP WITH GREECE, GOT COULD NOT ACCEPT AEGEAN BECOMING A GREEK LAE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET OVER GREEK ARMS PURCHASES FROM FRANCE, NOTING THAT AN ARMS RACE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IS UNNECESSARY, BUT THAT TURKEY WOULD UNDERTAKE ANY REQUIRED SACRIFICE.

2. PRIMIN ECEVIT ON JUNE 8 IN TALKING TO PRESS (REF B) ALSO DESCRIBED GREEK NOTE OF MAY 24 AS AMBIGUOUS, AND SAID THAT "UNFORUNATELY, THIS AMBIQUITY IN GREECE'S ATTITUDE IS CONTINUING". ECEVIT ECHOED GUNES' CALL FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH GREECE, BUT EXPRESSED FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND "WHY OUR NEIGHBORS, WITH WHOM WE ARE IN TOUCH, ARE UNWILLING TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH US ON ISSUES THAT MUST BE RESOLVED". HE UNDERLINED TURKEY'S INTENTION NOT TO DELAY IN "EXERCISING ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHTS" IF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ARE DELAYED. PRIMIN ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET OVER DELAY IN RECOMMENCING INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS WITH CYPRUS.

3. OPPOISTION LEADER AND JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CHAIRMAN DEMIREL, MEANWHILE, STATED ON JUNE 7 THAT TURKEY WOULD GIVE NO CONCESSIONS TO GREECE OVER CONTNENTAL SHELF ISSUE, AND THAT TURKEISH NATION WAS UNITED WHEN FOREIGN INTERESTS WERE AT STAKE.

4. FINALLY, JUNE 9 EDITION OF MEDIUM-CIRCULATION "OTLIYET" REPORTED FROM ATHENS THAT GREECE HAS BEGUN PREPARATIONS TO INCREASE ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS IN AEGEAN TO TWELVE MILES. MACOMBER

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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